

What is claimed is:

1. A picture layout processing apparatus which conducts layout processing for plural pictures; comprising:
  - 5 an attractive region calculation means which calculates an attractive region in a second picture which is overlapped and is behind a first picture; and
  - a layout processing means which conducts layout processing so that the attractive region in said second picture is not overlapped by and hidden by said first picture.
- 10 2. A picture layout processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a template memory means which stores a group of templates which defines layouts for plural pictures; and
  - a template selection means which selects said template in said template memory
- 15 means:
  - said layout processing means conducts layout processing for plural pictures based on said selected template, so that the attractive region of each pictures is not hidden.
- 20 3. A picture layout processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
  - a means which selects another template in the case in which a layout of said plural pictures cannot be decided based on said selected template.
4. A picture layout processing method for conducting layout processing of plural
- 25 pictures, comprising the steps of:

calculating an attractive region calculation which calculates an attractive region in a second picture overlapped and behind a first picture; and

a layout processing step which conducts layout processing so that the attractive region in said second picture is not hidden by said first picture.

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5. A program for making a computer in a picture layout processing apparatus which conducts layout processing of plural pictures, to execute a process comprising the steps of:

calculating an attractive region calculation which calculates an attractive region in a second picture overlapped and behind a first picture; and

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a layout processing step which conducts layout processing so that the attractive region in said second picture is not hidden by said first picture.